

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**

**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
GRANT PROGRAM**

**FFY 2022**

**Application and Reporting Guidelines**

**DEADLINE:** February 28, 2022

## CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program recognizes counties and municipalities that have made a special commitment to preservation. This commitment includes, but is not limited to, establishing a qualified historic preservation commission to designate and review historic properties.

Maryland's CLG Program is administered by the National Park Service and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). CLG programs exist in every state and are supported through the federal Historic Preservation Fund. MHT awards 10% of its annual allocation from the Historic Preservation Fund via subgrants to CLG projects and educational opportunities each year. Funding available for the FFY 2022 CLG grant round is expected to be approximately \$80,000.

CLG funds are awarded in two categories: 1) Education and Training and 2) Projects. The FFY 2022 deadline to apply is **February 28, 2022**. MHT intends to notify recipients by May 2022; however, the federal appropriations status may cause a delay. If awarded a grant, the grantee may start incurring project expenses at the time of notification, prior to the execution of the official grant agreement. All grant funds must be expended by **June 30, 2023**.

**Have questions? Planning to apply?** For clarification about the following guidelines or requirements, or to discuss a proposed project or a statewide educational program, please contact Nell Ziehl ([nell.ziehl@maryland.gov](mailto:nell.ziehl@maryland.gov)), MHT's Chief of the Office of Planning, Education and Outreach.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

All CLGs within the state of Maryland are eligible to compete for CLG funds. If you are uncertain whether your local government is a CLG, visit [http://mht.maryland.gov/grants\\_clg.shtml](http://mht.maryland.gov/grants_clg.shtml) for a complete list. **CLGs with outstanding FFY21 annual reports will not be eligible to receive grant funds.**

To request a FFY 2022 application link, or if your CLG report is currently overdue and you wish to be considered for funding, please contact Nell Ziehl at [nell.ziehl@maryland.gov](mailto:nell.ziehl@maryland.gov).

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS

Education and Training funds are distributed on a **REIMBURSABLE** basis and will be administered by Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC) on behalf of MHT. All required reporting on the expenditure of grant funds will be conducted by MAHDC. CLGs are responsible for providing the required documentation to MAHDC in a timely manner.

### Training

CLGs may request up to **\$1,500** for Commissioner and staff training each year. Annual grants for Commissioner and staff training are non-competitive. However, the actual award may be less than the requested amount depending on availability of funds and the past performance of a CLG in utilizing and administering funding. Applicants are not required to specify how they will spend training funds in the application.

**Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:**

- programs by MAHDC;
- programs by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC);
- registration for state-sponsored training workshops; and
- conferences hosted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Association for Preservation Technology, and similar organizations.

Other training activities may be eligible, subject to approval in advance by MHT.

**Educational Programs**

In addition to non-competitive training funds, CLGs may request up to **\$5,000** each year to support educational programs that benefit CLGs statewide (e.g. MAHDC's Annual Symposium or a NAPC statewide training). Applications for education grants are reviewed competitively, and only one application per educational program will be accepted (that is, an educational program will only be supported once in one year by the CLG Program).

**PROJECT GRANTS**

CLGs may request up to **\$25,000** for non-capital projects that support the CLG's efforts to protect and preserve historic, archaeological and cultural resources. Individual awards generally range from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

**Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:**

- identifying and documenting cultural and historic resources for survey or planning purposes;
- researching and evaluating historic and archaeological sites (e.g. historic structures reports, archaeological site reports and Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documentation);
- documenting cultural heritage (e.g. oral histories) related to existing structures and historic communities, especially under-served and/or minority communities;
- preparing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places;
- developing local preservation plans or preservation elements in local comprehensive plans;
- developing or updating design guidelines for local historic districts;
- producing heritage education materials including publications, exhibits, video and curricula;
- preparing publications that add to the public knowledge of Maryland's architectural, archaeological and cultural history; and
- conducting studies to determine the fiscal impact or feasibility of preservation activities.

**Ineligible activities include:**

- property acquisition, rehabilitation or restoration;
- archival research not associated with historic property documentation;
- curation of objects or collections following the conclusion of a federally funded project; and
- operating or overhead support, with the exception of third-party administrative costs (see "Third-Party Administration" below).

## **Project Selection**

A successful application will clearly demonstrate that the project will make a significant contribution to local preservation efforts and will be managed carefully in a professional manner. The CLG grant application is designed to help MHT's review committee evaluate the following criteria: **significance of the project or affected resources, urgency, project design, professional capability, project readiness, protective value, educational value, demonstration value, project impact, matching funds, administrative capability and geographic distribution.** MHT encourages applications that 1) promote and protect resources significant to communities underrepresented in the historical record and/or 2) include planning for climate adaptation or resilience.

Based on feedback from the review committee, MHT may award funding contingent on changes to the project scope and budget, or MHT may request subsequent consultation prior to its approval of the grant. Project conditions may be proposed to grantees by MHT as part of the award selection, process via MHT's online grants system. Grantees will have the opportunity to discuss and approve changes prior to acceptance of the award and issuance of the grant agreement.

## **General Project Requirements**

All CLG-funded projects must meet the Secretary of the Interior's [\*Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation\*](#) as well as the [\*Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Historical Investigations in Maryland\*](#) or the [\*Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Maryland\*](#).

In addition, principal investigators undertaking CLG-funded projects must meet the applicable minimum requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's [\*Professional Qualification Standards\*](#) as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36CFR61, published in the Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 190, pages 44738-39. Federal guidelines typically require that consultants be selected through a competitive procurement process (see "Federal Requirements" below), and MHT must approve the consultant selection.

MHT staff and members of the Board of Trustees may not receive remuneration from CLG grants.

If funding is awarded, the grantee will be responsible for submitting brief quarterly progress reports, as well as a final narrative and financial report that accompanies the project deliverables. Requests for the reimbursement of project expenses, with appropriate documentation, may be submitted along with the quarterly reports (see "Budget Requirements" for more detail). All required reports are distributed and received through the MHT online grants system.

## **Budget and Financial Requirements**

CLG project grants do not require a match, but applicants who include matching funds will be more favorably considered, as described in the "Project Selection" section above. Applications that demonstrate strong local investment are typically ranked higher in the selection process, and a cash match of at least 15% is encouraged. Federal funds may not be used as a match for the CLG program.

If awarded, CLG funds are distributed as **REIMBURSEMENT** for eligible project expenses incurred on or after the announcement of award. Although many grantees elect to file for reimbursement at the final report stage, reimbursements may be requested as part of quarterly progress reports during the project period. All requests for reimbursement require documentation of expenses (e.g. invoices, receipts) acceptable to MHT.

## **Federal Requirements**

Because the CLG Program is funded by the federal government, grantees must comply with certain federal requirements. MHT's grant application review and selection process will help evaluate the project scope and budget for consistency with the National Park Service [Historic Preservation Fund Grants Manual](#) and the Office of Management and Budget requirements set out in 2CFR200.

For projects involving the hiring of consultants and the procurement of services, CLG grant recipients must follow (at a minimum) the federal procurement standards outlined below. Grantees may use their own procurement standards, provided that the procurements conform to applicable Federal law and the standards identified in 2CFR Subsections 200.318 through 200.326.

- Micro-purchases (\$10,000 or less) may be awarded without soliciting competitive quotations if the grantee considers the price to be reasonable.
- Small purchases (more than \$10,000) require written price or rate quotations from at least three qualified sources (if available), as well as documentation of how the fair and reasonable price was determined.

The CLG grant agreement requires all CLG grant recipients to follow state and federal guidelines in the expenditure of CLG grants, including certifications regarding debarment, alcohol- and drug-free workplace requirements, and prohibitions against lobbying.

## **THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATION**

CLGs may elect to have their grants administered by a designated third-party organization, subject to MHT's approval. The third-party administrator may be another unit of local government, a business, a non-profit, or an educational institution. To request this arrangement, the CLG can choose this option in the grant application and must include a letter of concurrence from the third-party organization. Alternatively, the third-party administrator may submit the grant application on behalf of the CLG and must, in this case, include a letter signed by the CLG's chief elected official or designee that 1) endorses the project and 2) authorizes the applicant organization to act as the third-party administrator on behalf of the CLG.

If a grant is awarded under either of the above scenarios, MHT will execute a grant agreement between MHT and the designated third-party administrator, which will be responsible for submitting all project reporting and project deliverables.

A third-party administrator of a CLG grant may budget 10% of the direct project costs to cover project administration. If the administrator has an approved federal indirect cost rate higher than 10%, it must submit certification of the approved rate prior to the execution of the grant agreement with MHT.

Designation of a third-party administrator is not considered to be a procurement.

## **POOLING CLG FUNDS**

CLGs are permitted to pool Education and Training or Project grants for eligible uses. For example, several CLGs may combine their CLG funds to hire and share professional preservation services for eligible projects or for training activities. This option allows an administrator CLG to apply on behalf of participating CLGs for funding in excess of the individual \$25,000 grant limit and allows CLGs with a stronger administrative capacity to assist other CLGs.

Such an arrangement is available if the participants satisfy the following conditions:

- all participants involved in the pooling are CLGs;
- one CLG is designated as the grant applicant and administrator;
- the CLG grant application contains:
  - a. the names of all CLGs participating in the combined project;
  - b. letters of endorsement with signatures of each participating CLG's chief elected local official or designee;
  - c. the total amount of CLG funds requested for the pooled funds project; and
  - d. the source and amount of each CLG's matching share commitment, if applicable.

## CLG GRANTS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The application and selection process will follow the schedule below:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Feb. 1, 2022</b>         | <b>Notice to CLGs of Grant Application Availability</b><br>MHT staff assistance is available for application consultation and project planning.  |
| <b>Feb. 28, 2022</b>        | <b>Full Application Due</b><br>Fully completed applications must be submitted through MHT's online grants system <b>on or before February 28, 2022</b> . The application must include the application form and all required attachments. |
| <b>May 2022 (estimated)</b> | <b>Evaluation of Applications Completed</b><br>MHT staff presents the recommendations of the review committee to the State Historic Preservation Officer, who will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the applications.        |
| <b>May 2022 (estimated)</b> | <b>Award Announcements</b>   |
| <b>June 30, 2023</b>        | <b>Project Completed</b><br>All work on the project must be completed, and all project costs incurred <i>no later than June 30, 2023</i> .   |
| <b>July 31, 2023</b>        | <b>Project Close-Out</b><br>The final narrative and financial reports, the final request for disbursement, and all project deliverables must be submitted <i>no later than July 31, 2023</i> .   |

## APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

It is highly beneficial for applicants to contact MHT staff to discuss project proposals prior to submission of an application. For assistance in developing a scope of work and budget for your proposal, or with questions about CLG guidelines or requirements, please contact Nell Ziehl at [nell.ziehl@maryland.gov](mailto:nell.ziehl@maryland.gov).

*This program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operation by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.*